

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Docket No. 13/068-3-D3

tripeptides of formula (I) of the present invention, support being found throughout the application as filed, e.g., the synthetic methods at pages 30-34 and in claims 37, 46-47 and 73-74. This also ensures consistency within the claims.

This application is a divisional application of parent Application No. 09/368,866, filed on August 5, 1999. The claims have been amended to be directed to the non-elected subject matter of Group III set forth in the Restriction Requirement dated July 26, 2000, in the parent application. In this respect, the R₂₀ group "Het or (lower alkyl)-Het" has been amended to pyrimidinyl, quinazolinyl, (lower alkyl)-pyrimidinyl or (lower alkyl)-quinazolinyl, support being found in the pyrimidine and quinazoline Het groups found at page 10, line 12, page 18, lines 1-10, and in the numerous examples throughout the application as filed. The quinazolinyl group corresponds to the "benzopyridinyl" group identified by the Examiner in the Restriction Requirement.

In addition, the remaining "Het" groups in the claims are now defined as "a five-membered saturated or unsaturated, including aromatic, heterocycle containing from one to four heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, wherein said heterocycle is optionally fused to a benzene ring", support being found in the application as filed at page 10, lines 6-17, as well as in the numerous examples throughout the application as filed. A new claim 87 has been added to claim certain heterocycles that are listed at page 10, lines 10-17.

Process of preparation claims 73 to 75 have been amended to recite that the product of the claimed processes is the peptide analog compound of formula (I) according to claim 1. Since the process claims now depend from product claim 1 with respect to the product of each claimed process, Applicants respectfully submit that these process claims are entitled to be examined together with the product claims under the principles of rejoinder. See MPEP § 821.04.

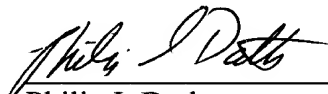
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Claims 84-86 have been amended to conform with U.S. practice. Other amendments have been made to correct certain informalities and improve consistency within the claims.

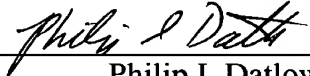
An examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any points remain at issue which can best be resolved by way of a telephonic or personal interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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